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Regional Conference Report

Region 5 – Restigouche

Memorial Civic Centre, Campbellton

Community Non-Profit Organizations Secretariat
January 17, 2009

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Over 50 organizations braved the freezing temperatures to join the Secretariat and the Sport Development Regional Council at the Memorial Civic Centre for the Restigouche Regional Conference. Local MLA and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Roy Boudreau took time to visit the conference and spoke about the importance of volunteering in the community and the region. Discussions during the day highlighted the need for more volunteers and the desire to work together as a region. The event was also an opportunity for the Secretariat to share with the participants its progress, next steps, and lay the foundation for better government and non-profit organizations relationships.

Brian Kenny
Minister responsible for the
Community Non-Profit Organizations Secretariat

Document Outline:

Strategic Plan

- Questions
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    - Fostering a Culture of Volunteering
    - Revitalizing the Partnership
- Discussion notes

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Strategic Plan

Group discussion took place during the conference to provide an opportunity for the participants to provide feedback on the draft strategic plan. The following questions and suggestions were discussed.

Questions

Funding and Administrative Burden

Q. *What is the progress of the commitment for multi-year funding?*

A. A working group (topic table) has been established for this issue. The Chair of this committee, Fleurette Landry, has solicited input from interested non-profit organizations and is gathering this information together. At the same time, the Secretariat has started conversations with government departments around the details of multi-year funding. The information gathered from the Topic Table and the government departments is being collected to develop a document to be presented to Cabinet. All affected departments have been working on identifying eligible non-profit organizations for the multi-year funding.

Q. *Where can Multi-cultural organizations or immigrants into Canada find information about government assistance and answers to questions regarding immigration?*

A. The Population Growth Secretariat has programs, grants and information available to non-profit multi-cultural organizations, new comers and immigrants to New Brunswick. Please visit their website to obtain more information.

Q. *What finances have been budgeted to implement Delivering on the Blueprint?*

A. In the current budget, there has been $400,000 allocated for the Community Non-Profit Organizations Secretariat. This money will be used to fund the operations of the Secretariat as follows: Wages for staff; Regional conferences; and office overhead and expenses.

Fostering a Culture of Volunteering

Q. *There is a need to increase awareness and the value of volunteering in the province, especially with an emphasis on youth. How can the Secretariat help?*

A. The need to create more awareness of volunteerism was strongly recommended. The Secretariat is meeting with Communications NB to investigate the possibility of a campaign. The Population Growth Secretariat has developed a Youth Engagement Fund to help support retaining Youth within our Province by engaging

them to become active participants in their community. More information on this program is available on their website.

Q. *Has any work been done on revitalizing the Youth in Action program?*
A. This program existed under the mandate of Social Development (then Family and Community Services). We understand that the program still exists in Campbellton through a non-profit organization. They have modified the program to create a new program that meets their needs. The Secretariat is interested in sitting down with this group to learn more about their program as we move forward in identifying options. We need to explore why the program is no longer offered through Social Development and what needs weren't met. The Secretariat recognizes the need for recruitment of volunteers and we are exploring options on how are we going to engage the youth.

Q. *The report suggests that tax credits could be offered to people who do volunteer work, as an incentive to volunteer. What work has been done on this recommendation?*
A. In June the government announced that the Select Committee for Tax Review would be holding public hearings across the province. The Deputy Minister, Chris Baker, sat down with chair of the committee, Roly McIntyre to discuss the committee and their role in reviewing recommendations made within the government's response document *Delivering on the Blueprint*. The many organizations that want to comment on the policy itself were welcome to come to the regional meetings and make a presentation before the committee. The opportunity to submit a written brief was also available until August 1st, 2008. The Secretariat also submitted a letter to the Select Committee outlining the taxations issues raised in the Blueprint for Action.

Revitalizing the Partnership

Q. *How can the Non-Profit Sector network amongst themselves and develop partners regionally?*
A. One of the ways that the Secretariat will have a regional presence is through the creation of seven annual regional conferences. There will be representation at these conferences not only from the Non-Profit Sector and Secretariat, but from Government employees. In addition to developing a better relationship with Government this is also an opportunity for the Non-Profit Sector to network and identify how they can partner together.

Q. *The Blueprint for Action recommended regional positions for the secretariat but it was this not agreed to in Delivering on the Blueprint. What is the Secretariat doing to assist the regions?*

A. Although regional outreach will be an activity of the Secretariat, it is a much smaller organization than envisioned in the *Blueprint for Action*. However, organizations evolve over time and there will be an opportunity to revisit the agency concept in the future. At this point in time the Secretariat is acting as a facilitator for the regions in NB that don't already have a network established. We are there to start the process of getting together. Our Advisory Committee will also be available as a regional presence in the operations of the Secretariat. They will act as the voice of their region when considering policy decisions and direction. More importantly, they will be a point of contact for the regions, in the regions, for the Secretariat.

Discussion Notes

- The government needs to prioritize it's financial responsibilities to include the non-profit sector
- SPCA – should receive support from government.
- Museums – need more funding from government. The amount remitting in HST exceeds the amount we receive in assistance
- Delivering on the Blueprint recommendation 38E (Shoulder Season) would be welcomed by museums in the province
- At cost agreements for school buses would cost museums money
- Strong need for volunteers.
- The recommended volunteer tax program for volunteers could be run by the municipality. They could manage a database of volunteers. Students could be credited for volunteer hours. Students are our future leaders.
- Strong need for regional presence from the Secretariat
- There are different kinds of non-profit organizations, and different consideration needs to be given to non-profits that have paid staff and those that operate solely on volunteers
- Our aging population brings a strong need for youth recruitment
- Non-Profits currently have access to government surplus, but they don't provide delivery. It is up to the non-profits to arrange for pick up of the items

Questions

These questions were raised during discussion at the conference on the evaluation sheets, and on comment sheets during round table discussions.

Q. *Why, given the definition on page 10 of Delivering on the Blueprint (i.e. The Third Pillar) are curling clubs not recognized as part of the non-profit landscape?*

A. As noted in the question, *Delivering on the Blueprint* does speak about the Third Pillar of society. It mentions that "the Sector includes all organizations that pursue public policy goals or provide services to the public without profit motive or monetary gain." The Secretariat was created to facilitate a better working relationship between individual departments and their non-profit partners as well as a better relationship between the Government of New Brunswick and the Sector as a whole. Therefore, the Secretariat recognizes all New Brunswick Non-Profit Organizations (with the exception of Municipalities, Universities, Schools and Hospitals) as part of its mandate. Therefore curling clubs are recognized as part of the non-profit landscape.

Q. *Given that the recruitment (and retention) of volunteers is crucial to the existence of any non-profit activity how best can the government encourage volunteerism – tax incentives, travel expenses, insurance costs etc? Which financial encouragement is most viable, doable and expedient?*

A. The government has committed to look at each of these items in *Delivering on the Blueprint*. The Secretariat is working with the Insurance Bureau of Canada and the Insurance Brokers Association of New Brunswick to identify insurance options and resources for the non-profit sector. Once identified, these resources will be added to our website and included in our newsletter. The Secretariat has committed to work towards the establishment of a travel expense policy for government meetings. The recommendations regarding tax incentives were referred to the Select Committee on Tax Review.

Regional Profile

The following profile is a summary of the Restigouche community non-profit sector in the Restigouche region. The summary was provided by the Restigouche Sport Development Council.

Portrait of the voluntary help in New Brunswick

The following statistics about the voluntary help come from the investigation of Statistics Canada (National Survey of Non-profit and voluntary organizations, 2004)

- 330.000 citizens of N.B. volunteer, representing 44% of the population.
- The equivalent of 61,000,000 hours annually or 30,525 full-time jobs.
- Each voluntary contributes an average of 185 hours/year in support of our communities.

Percentage of volunteers engaged per type of voluntary activity in N.B.:

- Supervision or the coordination of activities or events: 59%
- Sit on a committee or a board of directors: 45%
- Fundraising: 43%
- Information or training: 30%
- Teaching activities, education or as mentor: 26%
- Served or distributed food or other goods: 28%
- Consulting, clerical or management services: 28%
- Care and mutual aid, including the counselling: 27%

Statistics on the population in Restigouche (2006 Canada Census):

- In 2006, the population of Restigouche was 33,834, a fall of 6.4% compared to the year 2001.
- The population of the Local Services Districts in Restigouche was 11,025, a rate of 32.6% compared rate of 32.8% in 2001.
- The total population of the 10 municipalities of Restigouche was 22,809, representing 67.4% of the population.

The Community Volunteer organizations sector in Restigouche

There are 303 Community non-profit organizations in Restigouche within 15 intervention sectors:

Business Association & Trade Unions – 7
Religion – 59
Fundraising – 11
Political – 8
Governance (LSD) – 34
Development and housing – 5
Environment – 3
Social Services – 46
Hospital, University and College – 1
Health – 3
Education and research – 13
Sports and recreation – 99
Arts and Culture - 15

Percentage of organizations per intervention sector in Restigouche, Atlantic and Canada

Sectors	Percentage Restigouche	Percentage Atlantic	Percentage Canada
Arts and Culture	5.0%	8%	9%
Sports and recreation	33.5%	18%	21%
Education and research	4.4%	5%	5%
Health	1.0%	3%	3%
Hospital, Univ. & college	.33%	0.4%	0.8%
Social services	15.6%	12%	12%
Environment	1.0%	3%	3%
Development & housing	1.7%	5%	8%
Governance (LSD)	11.5%		2%
Fundraising	3.7%	8%	10%

Individual, Regional, Provincial Approach

The afternoon session provided for group discussion centered around four issues important to the region with an individual, regional, and the provincial focus towards implementing the recommendations of Delivering on the Blueprint.

Aging population

Individual responsibilities

- Break isolation – approach seniors about volunteering
- Volunteering helps with a healthy and active lifestyle
- Taking advantage of knowledge and abilities
- Put to use their availability
- Aging population could be relieved – network with youth to show them what is available, show them what they can do

Regional responsibilities

- Networking of senior associations
- Identifying their interests and expectations relating to the community – this consultation can encourage their involvement

Provincial responsibilities

- Put in place programs that are adapted to the needs of the regions
- Visit the regions to understand their needs

Finance

Individual responsibilities

- Search for grants
- Make suggestions to simplify application
- Encourage not discourage
- Share with other organizations

Regional responsibilities

- Regroup/share resources
- Communicate

Provincial responsibilities

- Hire a coordinator (in the region)
- Prioritize the blueprint and take action

Networking

- Groups need to meet three or four times a year to discuss common challenges / solutions or provide training
- Meet and network to get to know each other
- Exchange best practices and resources
- Exchange of information and training
- It is easier to ask for help if your network is familiar
- Smaller organizations – partnering with larger organization to share resources
- Require a central person to organize regular networking sessions (to share ideas) and provide guidance to bring like groups together
- Regional activities coordinator (to eliminate conflicts) who could offer advice / insight / solutions when organizations have problems
- Reevaluate existing services to see if they still meet needs of population
- Share resources between organizations, communities and groups
- Training for computers / Computers are an excellent tool but they are only as good as person using it

- Probation Services would like a contact person to place clients on probation into the community to complete their community service work or to volunteer their hours to pay a fine

Volunteer Services

- Recognition (ie. Tax rebates)
- Encourage youth involvement (ie. Integrate in to school curriculum)
- Encourage youth to return into our region
- Reimbursement of student loan or scholarships
- Database of available resources among non-profit, private sector and government
- Public transportation provided to volunteers
- The Ontario Ministry of Education instituted academic credits and scholarships for high school students for skills in social involvement in the community
- Compensation for volunteers of all ages
- Host a volunteer expo
- Tax receipt for your time spent volunteering – suggested that during the 2003 Canada Games volunteers were credited for the work hours they spent volunteering
- Recognition of volunteers – we need funding to do this
- Integrate volunteer work into the school curriculum
- Non-Profit Sector is a viable career option – working on advertising this
- Education in schools to promote socially proactive citizens

Comments/Priorities

The following feedback was recorded by participants on comment sheets during th conference

- Networking
- As I looked around the room there were many faces I did not know. We need some way in Restigouche to meet with all the people in Non-Profit. We are a very large area from Belledune to St. Quentin.
- Tax breaks for volunteers
- All rural areas need access to High Speed internet
- Set up a "chat room" or search query for Non-Profit to show info and resources per region
- More funding is required to assist with salaries. Non-profit employees are not compensated at the same salary level as government employees carrying out similar work, requiring similar education and experience.
- Secretariats long-term goal #4 – to increase participation of New Brunswickers in volunteer activities.

- Strategic goal # 16. "To increase public awareness on the importance of volunteerism, volunteer recognition and donations to volunteer organizations. " The Secretariat should create regional funds for the promotion of voluntary work
- Strategic goal #17. "To review the Youth in Action Program."

List of Attendees

Association du hockey mineur de Campbellton	Arseneault, Diane
Active Charlo Actif	Vienneau, Reginald
Agence Résidentielle Restigouche	Bélanger, Martin
Agence Résidentielle Restigouche	LeBlanc, Gerard
Agence Résidentielle Restigouche	Maltais, Marie-France
Association canadienne pour la santé mentale	Goulette, Cécile
Bathurst Heritage Trust Commission-Museum	MacDonald, Helina Rae
Bathurst Heritage Trust Commission-Museum	Ryan, Jessica
Belledune Citizens Committee	Gordon, Peggy
Bon Ami Festival	Walsh, Leigh
Campbellton Curling Club	Cotterelle, Mike
Campbellton Curling Club	Leger, Dan
Centre de Ressources Parents du Restigouche	Boudreau, Lisette
Comité régional des jeux de l'Acadie-restigouche	Bourgoin, Mario
Conseil de Développement du Sport du Restigouche	Roy, Carlo
Dalhousie Rotary Club	MacLean,Sandy
Dalhousie Rotary Club	Randall, Dave
Department of Public Safety	Breau Sivret, Manon
Department of Public Safety	Poirier, Nathalie
Department of Social Development	Bernard, Charles
Department of Tourism and Parks	Boudreau, Denise
Department of Wellness, Culture and Sport	Bryar, Gilles
Downtown Campbellton Centre-Ville	McRae, Stuart
FCANB (Fédéation Ainês N.-B.)	Poirier, Léonard
Jeunesse Restigouche Youth	Cormier-Pitre, Donna
Jeunesse Restigouche Youth	Theriault, Nicole
John Howard Society	Bastarache, Bill
Les Comètes du Restigouche	Ouellette, Roger M.
Les Résidences Charlo	Giroux, Omer A.
Maison Notre-Dame House Inc.	Babin, Jocelyne
Maison Notre-Dame House Inc.	Blanchard, Lise
MLA Campbellton-Restigouche Centre	Boudreau, Roy
MLA Campbellton-Restigouche Centre (Executive Assistant)	Shalala, Dave
New Brunswick African Association - Campbellton	Gbongbor, David
New Brunswick New Democratic Party	Duguay, Roger

New Brunswick New Democratic Party	Hachey, Sonia
New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association	Thompson, James
New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association	Thompson, Maria
Nuit Internationale Lonte Aladie	Michaud, Nelson
Open for Business Center	Beaulieu, Melissa
Recreaplay Inc	Lavoie, Linda
Restigouche Adult Learning Inc.	Firlotte, Barry
Restigouche Adult Learning Inc.	Gagnon, Lyne
Restigouche County SPCA	Dalzell, Anne Lovell
Restigouche County SPCA	Dalzell, Peter
Restigouche Family Crisis Interverners	MacPhee, Callum
Restigouche Family Crisis Interverners	Dionne, Marc
Restigouche Ground Search And Rescue	Bernatchez, Richard
Restigouche Regional Museum	Clarke, Bill
Société Culturelle de la Baie des Chaleurs	Soucy, Michel
Société culturelle des Hauts-Plateaux	Caron, Vicky
Société culturelle des Hauts-Plateaux	Levesque, France H.
Société culturelle des Hauts-Plateaux	Leclair, Raoul
Vie Saine et Active pour les 50 plus.	Jean, Nora
Village of Tide Head	Zyveniuk, Denyse
VON Bébé & moi en santé	Maltais, Anne
Youth Priority Center Inc.	Lessard, Roger